

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title:	Agricultural Land Tenure and Carbon Offsets		
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB)	EB		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Influential Scientific Information	
Agency:	Economic Research Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
	USDA		
Agency Contact:	Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov		
Subject of Review:	Legislative proposals to reduce greenhouse gases could allow agricultural producers to participate in a national “cap and trade” system. The opportunity to sell carbon offsets could prompt farmers to manage land in a way that increases carbon stored in soil organic matter and plant biomass, including residue. But because carbon is sequestered over time, practical offset agreements will likely require that practices be maintained for 5-10 years. Previous conservation programs requiring agricultural producers to make large investments and long-term commitments provide some evidence of that ownership plays a pivotal role in participation decisions. This report examines the prevalence of rented land and assesses the extent to which the agricultural sector could participate in a national cap and trade program without disrupting current leasing arrangements.		
Purpose of Review:	The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.		
Type of Review:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Panel Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Reviewers
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):	
Timing of Review (Est.):	Start:	11/18/08	End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX
Number of Reviewers:	<input type="checkbox"/>	3 or fewer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 to 10 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10
Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review:	Economists		
Reviewers selected by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Designated Outside Organization
	Organization's Name:		
Opportunities for Public Comment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:			
How:			
When:			
Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No